

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Newtown Legislative Task Force:

I am writing to urge you to protect my rights to keep and bear arms under Article One, Section 15 of the Connecticut State Constitution.

The constitution allows me the freedom to protect my family and property using fire arms. One of the weapons appropriate for this purpose is a semi automatic rifle with a standard capacity (30 round) magazine. While 30 rounds may seem excessive to confront a single intruder, it is important to note that there may be a need to defend against multiple criminals. Further, the outlaws may possess illegal arms. Therefore, if you restrict my rights to keep a semi automatic rifle, you could put me in a scenario where I am defending against multiple criminals, who are better armed than me and would distinctly shift the odds of success in their favor, thereby endangering my family.

Placing defensive measures in schools would be much more likely to curtail the subject crime and would not encroach on the rights of law abiding citizens to defend themselves. Many opponents of gun rights set up a false choice between gun rights and safety. The premise is if we give up our rights and count on the government to protect us then we'll all be safer. Defensive measures in schools would be more likely to deter deranged criminals in the first place or stop them quickly should use of force be needed. When horrific tragedies such as the one in Newtown occur, there is a knee jerk reaction by many to take away gun rights. Most sensible individuals would agree that taking away rights and limiting freedoms of law abiding citizens should always be the absolute last choice and all other plausible options should be considered first. Any consideration of reducing rights should start with a lengthy, thoughtful and objective study of the correlation between stricter gun laws and levels of violent crime. When one pursues the facts in this manner, he is likely to find that there is either no correlation between the two variables or, in many cases, a negative correlation (places with the tightest gun control laws have more violent crime). We don't need to choose between rights and safety. We can have both.

Please protect my children in school through defensive measures and allow me to continue to protect them at home by exercising my constitutionally guaranteed rights to keep and bear arms.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Dworak

Cromwell, CT